

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7399

CONFIDENTIAL CARACAS 0914

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, VE

SUBJECT: COPEI AND AD REACTION TO U.S. TRADE ACT

REF: CARACAS 849

1. FOLLOWING TELEPHONIC INQUIRIES WHICH I MADE YESTERDAY, AS INDICATED REFTEL, TO SECRETARIES GENERAL OF THE TWO PRINCIPAL VENEZUELAN PARTIES, SYG OF COPEI, PEDRO PABLO AGUILAR, TODAY TELEPHONED POLITICAL COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY TO SAY HE THOUGHT MY INQUIRY HAD BEEN "IMPERTINENT." THIS IN LINE WITH AGUILAR'S CONSISTENT LOW OPINION OF MYSELF DATING FROM THE FAMOUS FLAG-BURNING INCIDENT SOME YEARS AGO WHEN, AFTER THE COPEI YOUTH MOVEMENT HAD OFFICIALLY DISAVOWED ITS BURNING OF THE U.S. FLAG, I MADE A WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY SPEECH, CORRECTLY QUOTING DR. JOHNSON THAT "THE LAST REFUGE OF A SCOUNDREL IS PATRIOTISM." IN ANY CASE, PEDRO PABLO AGUILAR SUGGESTED HE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO LUNCH WITH OUR POLITICAL COUNSELOR FURTHER TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER.

2. THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT BOTH THE PRINCIPAL PARTIES ARE COMPLETELY IMPLICATED IN SIGNING AND SUPPORTING THE PRO VENEZUELA MANIFESTO. FURTHER PROOF OF THIS IS FORTHCOMING IN THE FACT THAT LAST SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, PRESIDENT PEREZ TOLD THE DELEGATION FROM THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (CARACAS 735) THAT THE FIRST THREE DRAFTS OF THE PROPOSED MANIFESTO WERE TOO VIOLENT AND HAD FINALLY SETTLED ON THE FOURTH. WE THUS HAVE ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE THAT NOT ONLY HAVE THE TWO MAIN PARTIES OF VENEZUELA JOINED IN THIS MANIFESTATION BUT ALSO THAT IT HAD AT LEAST THE TACIT APPROVAL

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OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.

MCCLINTOCK

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## Message Attributes

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